

## Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for December 2013

1340 State Route 9 Lake George, NY 12845 ☼ Phone: 518-761-6342 Fax: 518-761-7683

Denise A. Di Resta, Director/CVSO at [direstad@warrencountyny.gov](mailto:direstad@warrencountyny.gov) ~ web-site: <http://warrencountyny.gov/veterans>



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMEMBERS,  
VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES!

**The Department of Veterans Affairs** has issued a **fraud alert** about a marketing scam that is targeting veterans who misdial the VA National Call Center (800-827-1000) or the GI Bill Call Center (888-442-4551) phone numbers. A marketing company created two phone numbers that differ from the real VA numbers by one digit. If a veteran misdials and calls the bogus number, the answering party will offer a gift card and try to obtain sensitive personal data, to include credit card information. Please note that the VA will "never" ask for credit card or banking information over the phone.

The two bogus numbers are 800-872-1000 and 888-442-4511. Please forward this information to all your members, Posts and friends, and share it on your websites. The bottom line is making sure you know who you are talking to before providing personal information over the phone. The VA has notified law enforcement authorities.

For a list of toll-free VA phone numbers, go to the VA's Inquiry Routing & Information System webpage at [https://iris.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/1703](https://iris.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1703).

**Congress Approves 1.5% COLA:** Congress passed a 1.5-percent cost-of-living adjustment this week that is expected to be signed by the president. The increase would first appear in January checks and apply to about 3.7 million recipients of veterans' disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors, and pensions for low-income combat veterans. The COLA increase is automatic for Social Security and military and federal civilian retired pay recipients. New this year is the omission of a requirement that previously forced VA to round down COLA increases to the next lowest dollar, which at most would increase paychecks by 99 cents a month, or \$11.88 a year.

**VA Begins Dental Insurance Pilot Program:** VA is partnering with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible veterans, plus family members receiving care under CHAMPVA, to purchase affordable dental insurance. More than 8 million veterans who are enrolled in VA healthcare can choose to purchase one of the offered dental plans. The three-year pilot program is designed for veterans with no dental coverage, or those eligible for VA dental care who would like to purchase additional coverage. According to the VA, participation will not affect anyone's entitlement to VA dental services and treatment, and there are no eligibility limitations based on service-connected disability ratings or enrollment priority assignments. People interested in participating can complete an online application through either Delta Dental, [www.deltadentalvadip.org](http://www.deltadentalvadip.org), or MetLife, [www.metlife.com/vadip](http://www.metlife.com/vadip). Enrollment begins today and coverage begins Jan. 1, 2014. The program will be available throughout the United States and its territories. Read more at <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2495>.